

# INFORMATION REPORT

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**SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.**

**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

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- The new organization guarantees the effectiveness of the centralized control, will improve discipline and punctuality and is an important means of fighting irregularities and losses and improving the efficiency of the railroads. The realization of these advantages by the railroadmen was hampered by some officials who drew up the new duty rosters without regard to local considerations. For that reason, several leading functionaries and officials had to be dismissed.

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2. Effective 1 April 1955, a new duty schedule was introduced, according to which each employee, including office workers and engineers, must work a 12-hour night shift between Saturday and Monday. This new measure was violently resented by all railroad employees and superiors; even SED members refused to put the measure into effect. Most of the railroadmen declared that they would not put up with this measure and were ready to go on strike. So far, however, there was no active resistance, but superior officials and instigators were, allegedly, apprehended in the Schwerin and Eberswalde districts. Since the night of 1/2 April, strong details of railroad police and SSD have been detached to all railroad stations as a precautionary measure. It was made known that everybody resisting the new regulations would be considered a saboteur and would be severely punished.
3. Effective 1000 on 3 April, all employees of the GDR railroads were to change shifts according to the following schedule:  
 Sundays 1000 and 2200  
 Weekdays 0600, 1400 and 2200.  
 Until 15 April, each change of shift had to be reported to the railroad offices. At 0600 on 3 April, it was observed that the Dallgow railroad station was occupied by 4 men of the Bahnschutz (railroad security organization) instead of 2 railroad police usually detached there. It was learned that the railroad police had been withdrawn for concentrated employment. The Nauen railroad station was guarded by 16 railroad police. The Wustermarshaling yard with its signal boxes, Basa, and station building was guarded by 36 railroad police. These security measures were taken in view of possible unrest in connection with the change of duty hours for railroad personnel. Special security measures were discontinued on 4 April.
4. The new schedule of duty hours for railroadmen with shifts from 0600 to 1400, 1400 to 2200 and 2200 to 0600 on weekdays and from 2200 to 1000 and 1000 to 2200 on Sundays, which went into effect on 1 April, was extended to operational personnel, workers, and office personnel. The 12-hour Sunday shifts resulted in great discontent among the employees, but no cases of open resistance became known. On 1 April, new security measures were introduced at all railroad installations. Since 1 April, 10 to 14 civilians, presumably belonging to the SSD or the criminal police, have been stationed at the Wustermarshaling yard. Each signal box is guarded by an additional civilian. Similar measures are said to have been taken at other railroad stations in the GDR. Between 3 and 13 April, similar guard details were observed at Oranienburg and Kremmen.
5. Since 1 April, 3 or 4 VPS wearing blue uniforms and armed with sub-machine guns have been stationed at Nauen. The details constantly patrolled the railroad area and the railroad station, as well as offices. It was learned that these security measures were taken in connection with the newly introduced duty hours for railroad personnel. Reinforced security details are also said to be stationed at other railroad stations. This measure was greatly resented by railroad employees. On 1 April, new duty hours were ordered for railroad personnel. The new schedule maintains the 48-hour week, but off-duty hours are placed very inconveniently. Workers are also reportedly to be included in the new system. The new plan, allegedly, makes it easier for the personnel to attend cultural events. This reason was considered ridiculous by the railroad personnel, who regarded the measure as anti-social. The following is the new duty schedule in comparison to previous duty hours:

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Prior to 1 April

5 days off-duty per month

Shifts:

0700 to 1400 (7 h)  
 1400 to 2200 (8 h)  
 2200 to 0700 (9 h)

including Sundays

Since 1 April

3 days off-duty per month

Shifts:Weekdays

0600 to 1400 (8 h)  
 1400 to 2200 (8 h)  
 2200 to 0600 (8 h)

Sundays

2200 to 1000 (12 h)  
 1000 to 2200 (12 h)

The new 12-hour Sunday shift is very inconvenient, particularly in connection with the first shift on Monday. The beginning of work at 0600 instead of 0700 makes it difficult for persons depending on public transportation to reach the place of work.

Comment. The "stricter course" in the handling of traffic results in the reduction of wages, increase of quotas and inconvenient duty hours. All these measures are resented by the railroad personnel. Intensified security measures were taken to prevent a possible strike.

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